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USPC 174/50, 520, 59, 535, 559, 560;
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361/601, 679.01, 730, 752

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is an electric junction box which prevents highly-pressured water invading into a case from blowing to components in the case. The electric junction box includes a case including a frame to which a plurality of components is to be attached, a lower cover arranged to be attached to the frame. The frame includes a first side wall. The lower cover includes a second side wall and a flange. An upper end of the second side wall is positioned inside the first side wall, and a lower end of the first side wall abuts onto the flange. An outer face of the second side wall above the flange includes a parallel face and a tapered face. The parallel face has a length of 3 mm or more, and the tapered face has a length of 3 mm or more.

2 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H02G 3/08; H02G 3/081; H02G 3/088;
H02G 3/16; H05K 5/00; H05K 5/02; H05K
5/04; B60R 16/00; B60R 16/0239; B60R
16/02; H01H 9/02; H01H 9/04

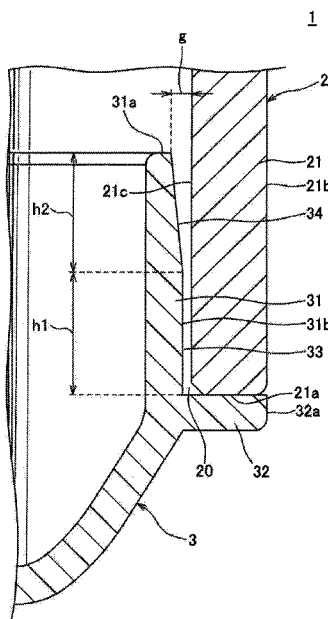


FIG. 1

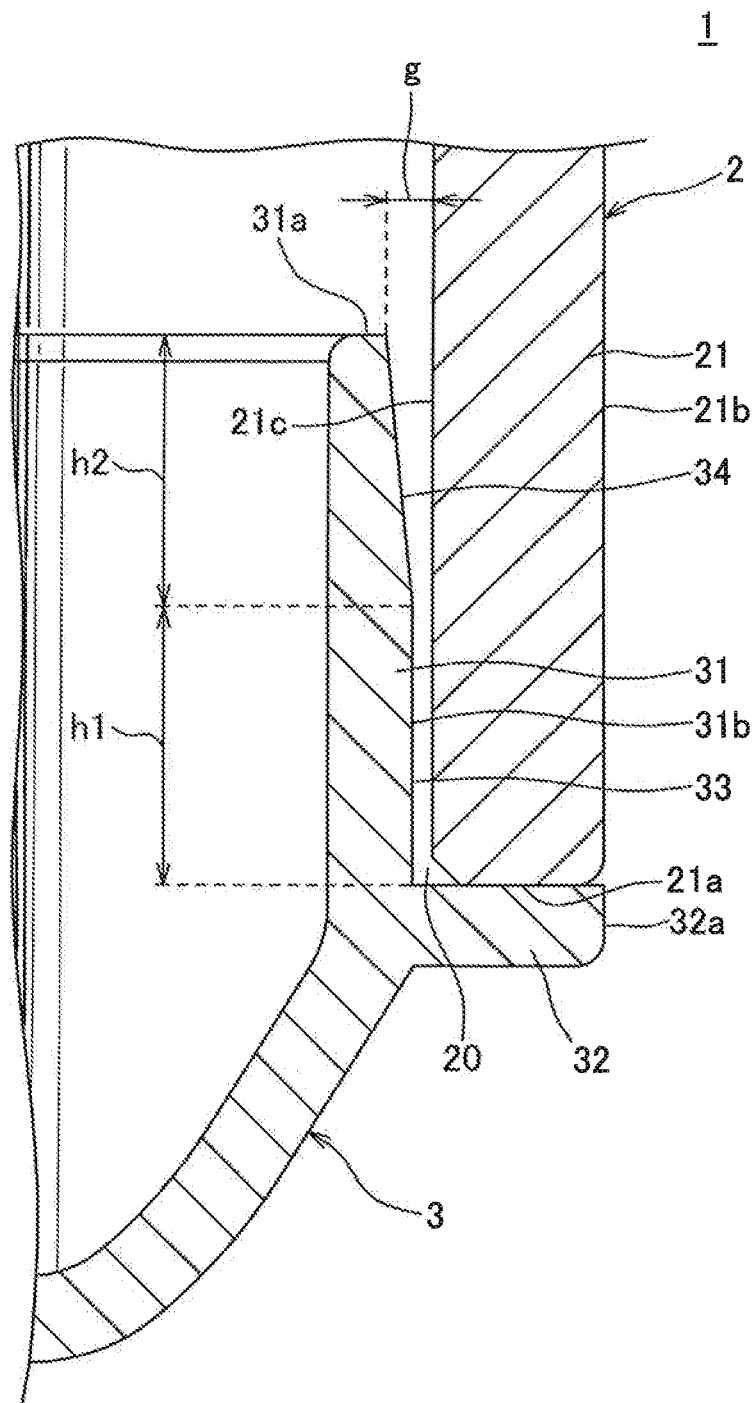


FIG. 2

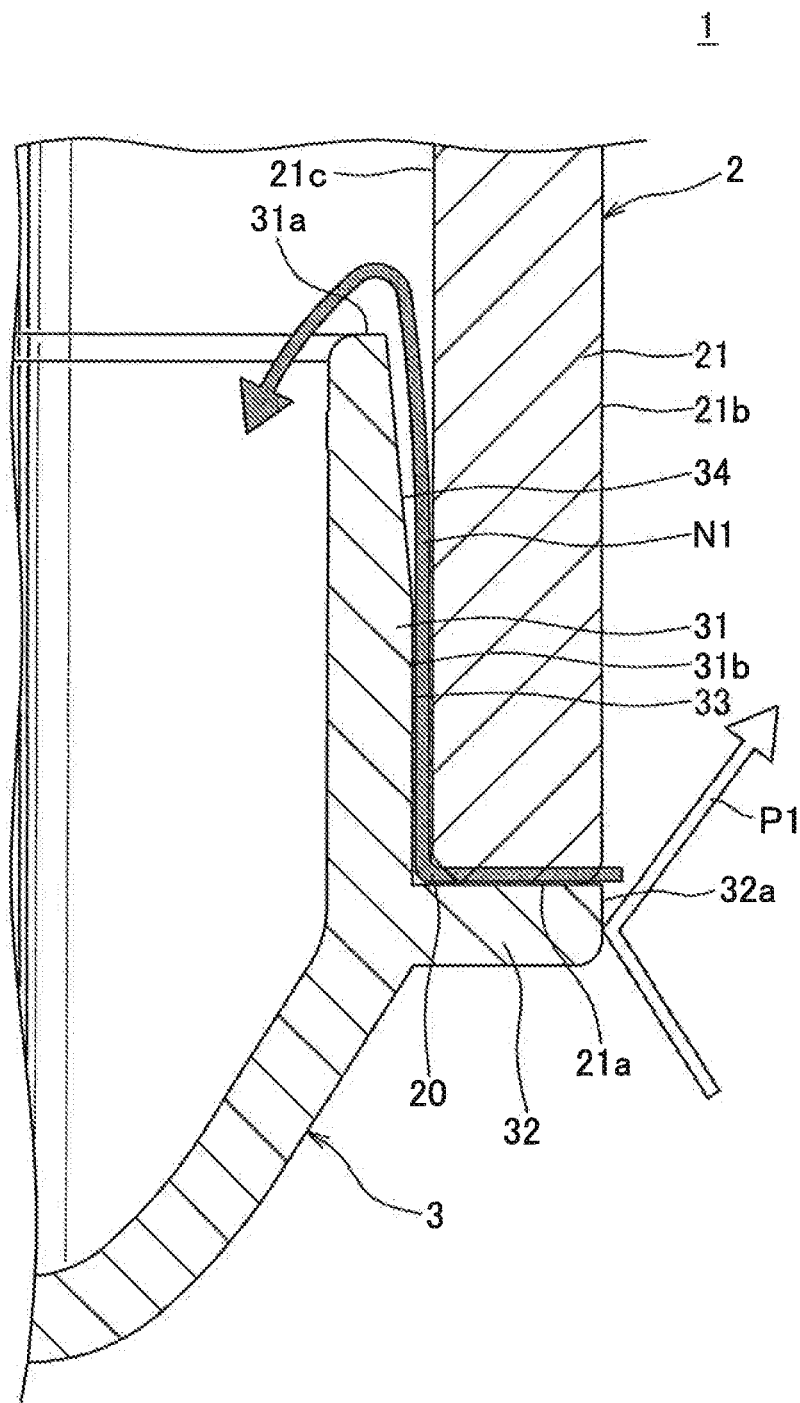
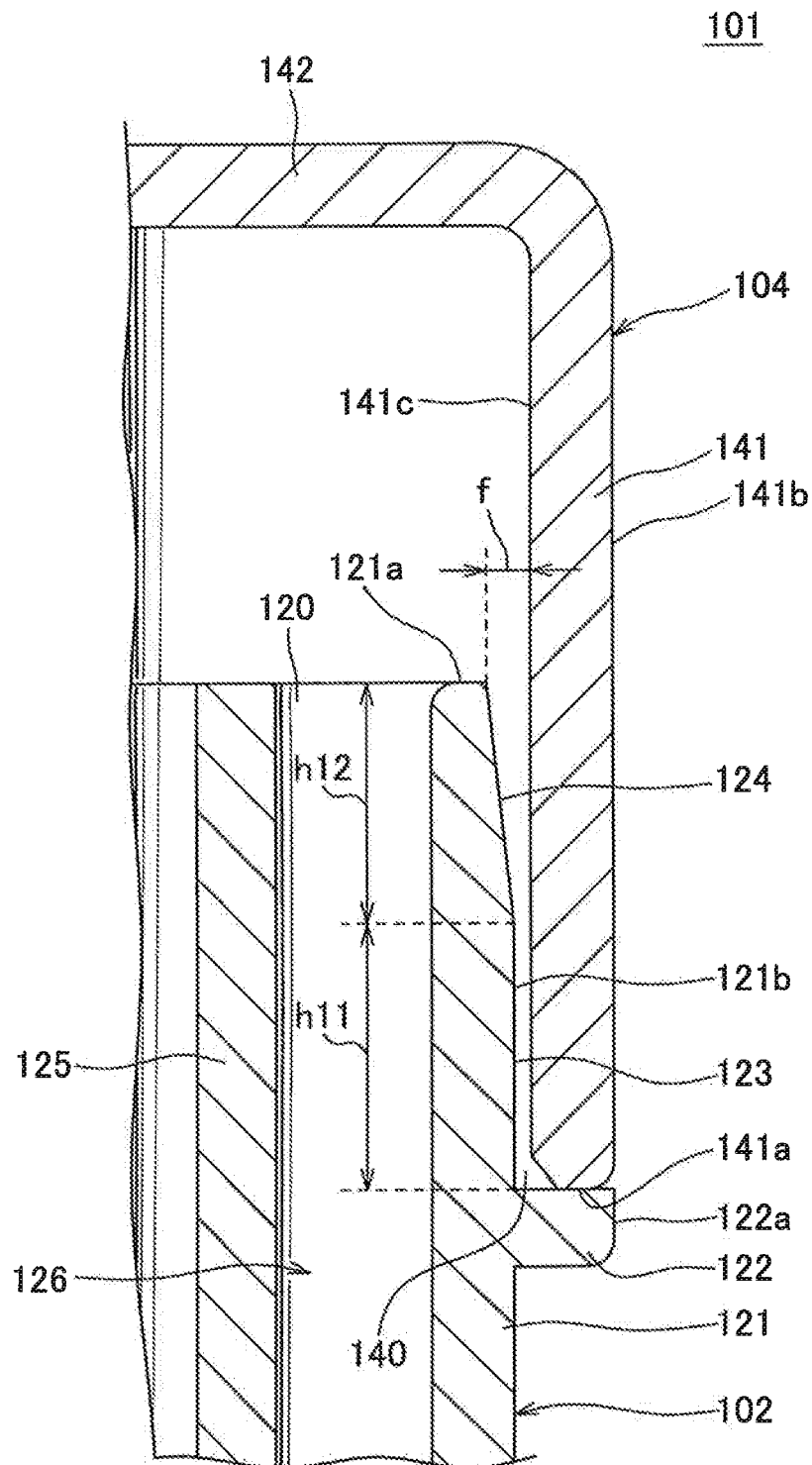


FIG. 3



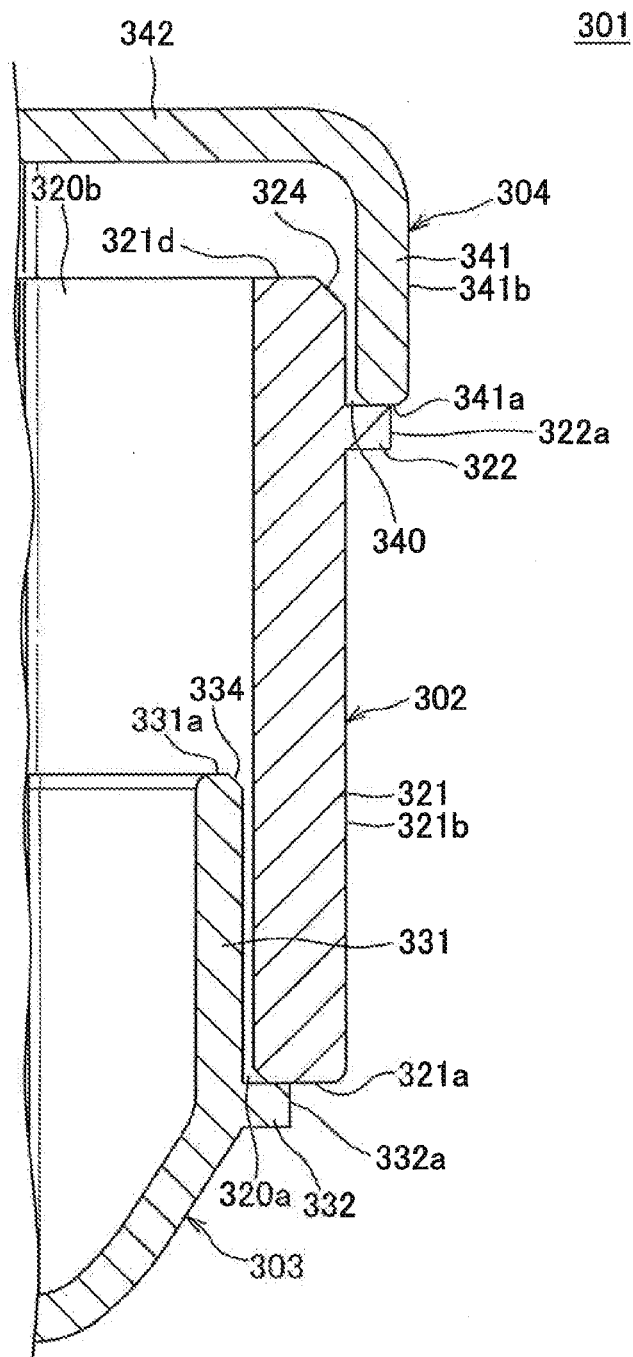


FIG. 6
PRIOR ART

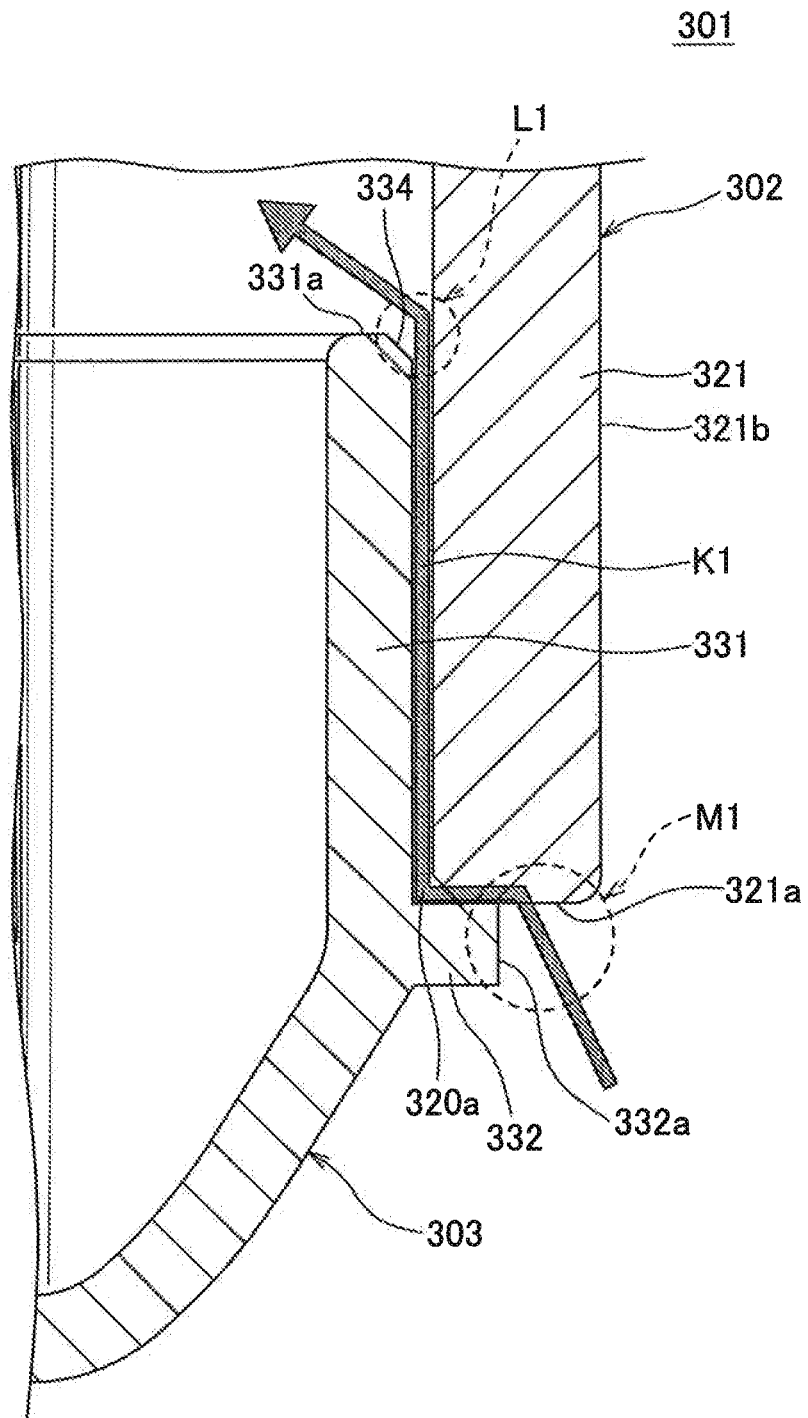
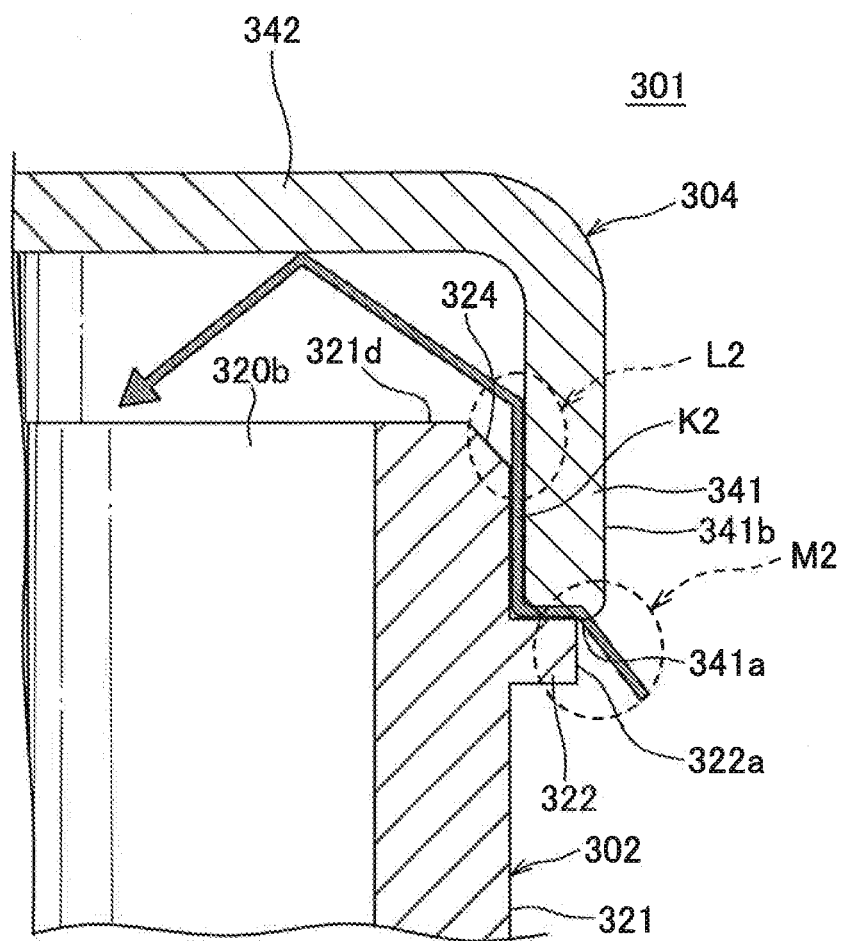


FIG. 7
PRIOR ART



ELECTRIC JUNCTION BOX

This application is on the basis of Japanese Patent Application NO. 2012-262084, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to electric junction boxes to be mounted to automobiles.

BACKGROUND ART

To the automobile an electric junction box is mounted. The electric junction box has various types of structures, for example, the one provided with a case **301** shown in FIG. 5, which is well known (see PTL 1).

As shown in FIG. 5, the foregoing electric junction box **301** includes a frame **302** to which a plurality of components is attached, a lower cover **303** and an upper cover **304** which are attached to the frame **302**. These frame **302**, lower cover **303**, upper cover **304** are made of synthetic resin.

The foregoing frame **302** is provided with a side wall **321**, an opening **320a** surrounded by a lower end **321a** of the side wall **321**, an opening **320b** surrounded by an upper end **321d** of the side wall **321**, and a flange **322** projecting from an outer face **321b** of the side wall **321**.

The lower cover **303** is designed to cover the opening **320a** of a downside of the frame **302**, and includes a bottom wall, a side wall **331**, and a flange **332** projecting from the outer face of the side wall **331**.

The upper cover **304** is designed to cover the opening **320b** upside the frame **302**, and includes a ceiling wall **342**, and a side wall **341**.

An upper end **331a** of the side wall **331** of the lower cover **303** is positioned inside the side wall **321** of the frame **302**, and the lower end **321a** of the side wall **321** of the frame **302** abuts onto the flange **332**. An upper end **321d** of the side wall **321** of the frame **302** is positioned inside the side wall **341** of the upper cover **304**, and the lower end **341a** of the side wall **341** of the upper cover **304** abuts onto the flange **322**.

Also, in order to readily attach the lower cover **303** to the frame **302**, on the upper end **331a** of the side wall **331** of the lower cover **303** is formed to include a tapered face **334**. Likewise, in order to readily attach the upper cover **304** to the frame **302**, on the upper end **321d** of the side wall **321** of the frame **302** is formed to include a tapered face **324**.

CITATION LIST**Patent Literature**

[PTL 1]
Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. 2005-261048

SUMMARY OF INVENTION**Technical Problem**

Disadvantageously, the above-mentioned electric junction box of the case **301** posed drawbacks mentioned below. Namely, as shown in FIGS. 6, 7, when the case is splayed with highly pressured water (for example, highly pressured washing water), water invades into between the frame **302** and the lower cover **303** as the arrow **K1**, or between the frame **302** and the upper cover **304** as the arrow **K2**, this water while

keeping its high water pressure passes upwardly through a space between the side wall **321** and the side wall **331**, or between the side wall **341** and the side wall **321**, and blows in the case **301**.

Also, when the water blows into the case **301** from the space between the side wall **321** and the side wall **331** or between the side wall **341** and the side wall **321**, because an outlet of the space is narrow (which is shown by **L1** in FIG. 6, or **L2** in FIG. 7), keeping its high water pressure, the water blows upwardly toward an upside of case **301**, and blows toward the components attached to the frame **302**, or rebounds from the ceiling wall **342** to blow toward the components.

Furthermore, in the foregoing case **301** of the electric junction box, since between the tip end **332a** of the flange **332** and the outer face **321b** of the side wall **321** a step (a part shown by **M1** in FIG. 6) is formed, and between the tip end **332a** of the flange **332** and the outer face **341b** of the side wall **341** a step (a part shown by **M2** in FIG. 7) is formed, the pressured water splayed to the case **301** readily invades from these steps.

Solution to Problem

Therefore, an object of the invention is to provide an electric junction box to prevent highly pressured water, when invading into a case, from splashing onto components in the case.

According to one aspect of the invention in order to resolve the object, there is provided an electric junction box, including: a case including a frame to which a plurality of components is to be attached, a cover arranged to be attached to the frame, wherein one of the frame and the cover includes a first side wall, and an opening surrounded by a lower end of the side wall, wherein the other of the frame and the cover includes a second side wall, and a flange projecting from an outer face of the second side wall, wherein an upper end of the second side wall is positioned inside the first side wall, wherein the lower end of the first side wall abuts onto the flange, wherein the outer face of the second side wall above the flange includes a parallel face intersecting the flange and arranged parallel to an inner face of the first side wall, a tapered face slanted in a direction toward an inside of the second wall as approaching the upper end of the second side wall from an end of the parallel face located distant from the flange, wherein the parallel face has a length from an end of the flange to an end of the tapered face of 3 mm or more, wherein the tapered face has a length from the end of the parallel face to an upper end of the tapered face of 3 mm or more, and herein the upper end of the second wall and the inner face of the first side wall are spaced by 0.5 mm or more.

Preferably, a distal end of the flange located distant from the second side wall is positioned in the same plane as an outer face of the first side wall.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the invention related to the one aspect, since the parallel face has the length from the end of the flange to the end of the tapered face of 3 mm or more, wherein the tapered face has the length from the end of the parallel face to the upper end of 3 mm or more, and wherein the upper end of the second wall and the inner face of the first side wall are spaced by 0.5 mm or more, the highly pressured water, when splayed to the case and invading from between the flange and the parallel face, a momentum of the water passing upwardly through the space between the parallel face and the first side wall is reduced between the tapered face and the first side

3

wall, and thereby the water passing through between the upper end of the second side wall and the first side wall, without blowing upwardly upside the case, falls down toward downside of the case. Therefore, the water invading into the case is prevented from splashing onto the components attached to the frame.

According to the invention, since the distal end of the flange located distant from the second side wall is positioned in the same plane as the outer face of the first side wall, between the distal end of the flange and the outer face of the first side wall a step is not induced, making it possible that the highly pressured water when splayed to the case unlikely invades from between the flange and the first side wall.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an electric junction box according to a first embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is an explanatory view when highly pressured water is splayed to a case shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an electric junction box according to a second embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 4 is an explanatory view when highly pressured water is splayed to a case shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a conventional electric junction box;

FIG. 6 is an explanatory view when highly pressured water is splayed to a case shown in FIG. 5; and

FIG. 7 is an explanatory view when highly pressured water is likewise splayed to a case shown in FIG. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

First Embodiment

With reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, an “electric junction box” relevant to the first embodiment is discussed. The electric junction box is designed to be mounted on an automobile and supply power or transmit signal to an electric device mounted on the automobile. Also, the embodiment is the one in which a frame abuts onto a flange disposed to a lower cover, and a tapered face is provided on a side wall of the lower cover above the flange.

The foregoing electric junction box is provided with a case 1 shown in FIG. 1. The case 1 includes a frame 2 to which a plurality of components is to be attached, a lower cover 3 to be attached to the frame 2 (corresponding to a “cover” in the claims), and a not-shown upper cover to be attached to the frame 2. These frame 2, lower cover 3, and upper cover are made of synthetic resin.

The frame 2 is provided with a cylindrical side wall 21 (corresponding to a first side wall in the claims, it is hereafter referred to as the first side wall), an opening 20 surrounded by a lower end 21a of the first side wall 21, and an opening surrounded by an upper end of the first side wall 21. The foregoing plurality of components, such as relay, fuse, or connector, is attached to inside the first side wall 21. Also, the upper cover is designed to cover the upper opening of the frame 2.

The lower cover 3 is designed to cover the lower opening 20 of the frame 2, and is provided with a bottom wall, a side wall 31 (corresponding to a second side wall in the claims, it is hereafter referred to as the second side wall), and a flange 32 projecting from an outer face 31b of the second side wall 31. The flange 32 is formed across a whole circumference of the second side wall 31.

4

An upper end 31a of the second side wall 31 of the lower cover 3 is positioned inside the first side wall 21 of the frame 2, and a lower end 21a of the first side wall 21 of the frame 2 abuts onto the flange 32 of the lower cover 3.

Also, an outer face 31b of the second side wall 31 above the flange 32 is provided with a parallel face 33 and the tapered face 34. The parallel face 33 intersects the flange 32, and is arranged in a plane parallel to an inner face 21c of the first side wall 21. The tapered face 34 is positioned upside the parallel face 33, and is slanted toward inside the second side wall 31 as approaching from an end away from the flange 32 of the parallel face 33 to the upper end 31a.

In the invention, the parallel face 33 has a length h1 from an end near the flange 32 to an end near the tapered face 34 of 3 mm or more. The tapered face 34 has a length h2 from an end near the parallel face 33 to the upper end 31a of 3 mm or more. A space g between the upper end 31a of the second wall 31 and the inner face 21c of the first side wall 21 is arranged 0.5 mm or more.

Conformation to such those dimensions, as shown by the arrow N1 in FIG. 2, makes it possible that when highly pressured water (for example, highly pressured washing water) is splayed to the case 1 and invading from between the flange 32 and the first side wall 21, a momentum of the water passing upwardly along a space between the parallel face 33 and the first side wall 21 is reduced between the tapered face 34 and the first side wall 21, and thereby the water passing through between the upper end 31a of the second side wall 31 and the first side wall 21 falls down to downside of the case 1 without splashing upwardly toward the upside of the case 1. Therefore, the water invading into the case 1 is prevented from splashing onto the components attached to the frame 2.

Namely, since the parallel face 33 is a portion which forms from the first side wall 21 a slight space, and serves as not directing toward the upper end 31a the water that invades from between the flange 32 and the first side wall 21, the parallel face 33 requires its length h1 of 3 mm or more. Note that the parallel face 33 may abut onto the first side wall 21 owing to its error within tolerance. Also, since the tapered face 34 serves as ready attachment of the lower cover 3 to the frame 2, and is a portion which forms from the first side wall 21 a space to reduce pressure, the tapered face 34 requires its length h2 of 3 mm or more, and the space g between the upper end 31a of the second side wall 31 and the inside 21c of the first side wall 21 requires 0.5 mm or more. This does not imply limiting the length h1 of the parallel face 33, h2 of the tapered face 34, and the space g1 between the upper end 31a and the first side wall 21. Note that in the embodiment the space g1 between the upper end 31a and the first side wall 21 is, in view of stiffness of the second wall 31, set to 1 mm.

Furthermore, the tip end 32a of the flange 32 away from the second side wall 31 is positioned in the same plane as the outer face 21b of the first side wall 21. It follows from this that no step is induced between the tip end 32a of the flange 32 and the outer face 21b of the first side wall 21, making it possible that the pressured water, when splayed to the case 1, unlikely invades into between the flange 32 and the first side wall 21.

Second Embodiment

With reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, an “electric junction box” according to the second embodiment is discussed. In the embodiment, an upper cover abuts onto a flange disposed to a frame and a tapered face is disposed on a frame side wall upside the flange.

The electric junction box is provided with a case 101 shown in FIG. 3. The case 101 is provided with a frame 102 to which a plurality of components is to be attached, an upper cover 104 (corresponding to a “cover” in the claims), and a

5

not-shown lower cover to be attached to the frame **102**. These frame **102**, upper cover **102**, upper cover **104**, and lower cover are made of synthetic resin.

The frame **102** is provided with a cylindrical side wall **121** (corresponding to a second side wall in the claims, it is hereafter referred to as the second side wall), an opening **120** surrounded by an upper end **121a** of the second side wall **121**, and an opening surrounded by a lower end of the second side wall **121**, a flange **122** projecting from an outer face **121b** of the second side wall **121**, and a waterproof wall **125** arranged inside the second side wall **121**. The flange **122** is formed across a whole circumference of the second side wall **121**. The waterproof wall **125** is spaced apart from the second side wall **121**. A space between the waterproof wall **125** and the second side wall **121** is referred to as a “drainage section”, and is provided with a reference sign **126**. The forgoing plurality of components, such as relay, fuse, or connector, is attached to inside the waterproof wall **125**. Also, the lower cover is designed to cover the lower opening of the frame **102**.

The upper cover **104** is designed to cover the opening **120** upside the frame **102**, which includes a ceiling wall **142**, a side wall **141** (corresponding to a “first peripheral wall”, and hereinafter referred to as the “first side wall”), and an opening **140** surrounded by the lower end **141a** of the first side wall **141**.

An upper end **121a** of the second side wall **121a** of the frame **102** is positioned inside the first side wall **141** of the upper cover **104**, and a lower end **141a** of the side wall **141** of the upper cover **104** abuts on the flange **122** of the frame **102**.

Also, an outer face **121b** above the flange **122** in the second side wall **121** is provided with a parallel face **123**, and a tapered face **124**. The parallel face **123** is the face intersecting the flange **122**, and parallel to the inner face **141c** of the first side wall **141**. The tapered face **124** is located upside the parallel face **123**, and tapered in a direction toward inside the second side wall **121** as approaching from an end of the parallel wall **123** away from the flange **122** to the upper end **121**.

In the present invention the parallel face **123** has a length **h11** from an end of the flange **122** to an end near the tapered face **124** of 3 mm or more. The tapered face **124** has a length **h12** from an end near the parallel face **123** to the upper end **121a** of 3 mm or more. A space **f** between the upper end **121a** of the second side wall **121** and the inner face **141c** of the first side wall **141** is arranged 0.5 mm or more.

Conformation to such the dimensions, as shown by the arrow **N2** in FIG. 4, makes it possible that when highly pressured water (for example, highly pressured washing water) is splayed to the case **101** and invading from between the flange **122** and the first side wall **141**, a momentum of the water passing upwardly through the space between the parallel face **123** and the first side wall **141** is reduced between the tapered face **124** and the first side wall **141**, and thereby the water passing through between the upper end **121a** of the second side wall **121** and the first side wall **141** falls down toward downside of the case **101** without splashing upwardly upside the case **101**. Therefore, the water invading into the case **101** is prevented from splashing onto the components attached to inside the frame **2**.

Furthermore, the tip end **122a** of the flange **122** away from the second side wall **121** is positioned in the same plane as the

6

outer face **141b** of the first side wall **141**. It follows from this that no step is induced between the tip end **122a** of the flange **122** and the outer face **141b** of the first side wall **141**, making it possible that the pressured water, when splayed to the case **101**, unlikely invades into between the flange **122** and the first side wall **141**.

The aforementioned embodiments merely show such as, but not limited to, typical embodiment of the present invention. Namely, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, unless otherwise such changes and modifications depart from the scope of the present invention hereafter defined, they should be construed as being included therein.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

- 1, 101 case
- 2, 102 frame
- 3 lower cover (cover)
- 21, 141 first side wall
- 31, 121 second side wall
- 32, 122 flange
- 34, 124 tapered face
- 104 upper cover (cover)
- The invention claimed is:
 1. An electric junction box, comprising:
 - a case including
 - a frame to which a plurality of components is to be attached,
 - a cover arranged to be attached to the frame, wherein one of the frame and the cover includes
 - a first side wall, and
 - an opening surrounded by a lower end of the side wall, wherein the other of the frame and the cover includes
 - a second side wall, and
 - a flange projecting from an outer face of the second side wall,
 - wherein an upper end of the second side wall is positioned inside the first side wall,
 - wherein the lower end of the first side wall abuts onto the flange,
 - wherein the outer face of the second side wall above the flange includes
 - a parallel face intersecting the flange and arranged parallel to an inner face of the first side wall,
 - a tapered face slanted in a direction toward an inside of the second wall as approaching the upper end of the second side wall from an end of the parallel face located distant from the flange,
 - wherein the parallel face has a length from an end of the flange to an end of the tapered face of 3 mm or more, wherein the tapered face has a length from the end of the parallel face to an upper end of the tapered face of 3 mm or more, and
 - wherein the upper end of the second wall and the inner face of the first side wall are spaced by 0.5 mm or more.
 2. The electric junction box as claimed in claim 1, wherein a distal end of the flange located distant from the second side wall positioned in the same plane as an outer face of the first side wall.

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